

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAREUR
CINCUSAFE

UNCLAS FRANKFURT 4915

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO USSS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PORS, ASEC, GW
SUBJ: FRANKFURT DEMONSTRATION OF JUNE 17TH

1. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1978 3,000 MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NPD), A RIGHT-WING ORGANIZATION, HELD A DEMONSTRATION IN THE DOWNTOWN FRANKFURT AREA OF RATSWEG. THE DEMONSTRATION HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN BANNED BY THE FRANKFURT LORD MAYOR WALTER WALLMANN, BUT WAS LATER APPROVED TO BE HELD BY A FRANKFURT ADMINISTRATIVE COURT. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD TO COMMEMORATE THE JUNE 17, 1953 UPRISING IN THE DDR AND TO SUPPORT GERMAN REUNIFICATION.

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THE DEMONSTRATION LASTED FROM 1000 TO 1700 HOURS.

2. IN OPPOSITION TO THE DEMONSTRATION BY THE NPD, THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF WEST GERMANY (KBW), A MAOIST-ORIENTED LEFT-WING GROUP, SUPPORTED BY THE GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY (DKP-A MOSCOW-ORIENTED LEFT WING

GROUP) AND THE ASSOCIATION OF NAZI PERSECUTERS (VVN-VEREIN DER VERFOLKTEDES NAZI REGIME, A LEFTIST RADICAL REACTIONARY GROUP) HELD A COUNTER DEMONSTRATION IN THE DOWNTOWN FRANKFURT AREA OF KATHERINEN KIRCHE. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS ATTENDED BY 800-1,000 K-GROUP MEMBERS AND WAS HELD FROM 1100 HOURS TO 1700 HOURS.

3. AT ABOUT 1530 HOURS, THE NPD BEGAN A MARCH TO A PREDISGNATED AREA IN FRONT OF THE RATHAUS (CITY HALL) TO CONCLUDE THEIR DEMONSTRATION WITH A RALLY AND SPEECH. IN AN EFFORT TO DISRUPT THIS RALLY, THE KBW AND OTHER LEFTIST GROUPS ARRIVED AHEAD OF THE NPD. THE POLICE WHO WERE PROTECTING A PODIUM WHICH HAD BEEN SET UP BY THE NPD WERE CONFRONTED BY THE K-GROUP DEMONSTRATORS, WHO BEGAN TO ATTEMPT TO OVERTURN THE PODIUM AND TO PROVOKE A RIOT. TO CONTROL THE CROWD THE POLICE LAUNCHED A COUNTER OFFENSIVE TO CLEAR THE AREA OF THE K-GROUP MEMBERS AND TO KEEP THE NPD AND KBW GROUPS, WHO WERE KEPT APART, FROM BRAWLING WITH EACH OTHER. IN THE ENSUING STRUGGLE ABOUT 60 K-GROUP DEMONSTRATORS AND 20 POLICE RECEIVED INJURIES. TWELVE KBW DEMONSTRATORS WERE DETAINED AND FIVE WERE ARRESTED. THE CLASH BETWEEN POLICE AND DEMONSTRATORS LASTED FOR ALMOST 45 MINUTES AND UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS FINALLY SUPPRESSED BY THE POLICE USING HEAVY WATER CANNONS AND NIGHTSTICKS. AFTER THE DEMONSTRATION WAS SUPPRESSED, SPLINTER GROUPS CAUSED DAMAGE TO STORES IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA. EXTENT OF DAMAGE IS UNKNOWN. THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEKEND WAS CALM AND THERE WAS NO POLICE REPORTS OF ANY AFTER EFFECTS OF THE DEMONSTRATION.

4. THE DEMONSTRATION HAS RECEIVED WIDE PRESS COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS. LEHMANN

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